

# SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER

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## SAUGATUCK'S RETRO BOAT RENTAL STARTUP HIGHLIGHTS SDHC AUGUST 7 "TUESDAY TALK"

JULY 27, 2018 -- A new addition to Saugatuck's waterfront attractions in 2017, Retro Boat Rentals, will highlight Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's next "Tuesday Talk" on August 7, in the Old School House, 130 Center Street, Douglas. The one-hour program begins when the school bell rings at 11 a.m. Public attendance is invited and audience participation is welcomed to enrich the discussion.

Positioned along the Kalamazoo River's east bank at 703 Water Street, the company offers seekers-of-the-unusual a fleet of meticulously maintained and rare classic runabout boats, reflecting the jet-age era in which they were made (1958-1963), with streamlined fiberglass hulls, fanciful fins, headlights and chrome details, but now updated with quiet, environmentally friendly electric motors.

Company principals John Sharar and fiancée Lauren Stauton will discuss how and why their business was conceived and developed, along the way recalling the 1950s emergence of fiberglass boats, the recent conversion of their fleet from gasoline to electric propulsion, and this year's addition of round, ten-passenger electric "donut boats".

If Lauren Stauton sounds familiar, it's because she recently was a WZZM TV Anchor, as well as a 13-year resident of Saugatuck, before leaving her 18-year TV career to commit full time to the new enterprise. John left a 25-year career in industrial distribution, most recently with Airgas, an Air Liquide company that supplies medical and specialty gases, safety products and process chemicals, where he was Sales Director for Manufacturing and Metal Fabrication markets, living in Holland. He, too, now resides in Saugatuck.

A summer tradition since 1996, weekly Tuesday Talks present entertaining and informative insights into local community life throughout July and August. This week's Talk is sponsored by SDHC president Steve Hutchins.

Tuesday Talks' increasing popularity puts limited seating on "first-come, first-served" basis. While admission is free for current SDHC members, non-member guests are encouraged to attend with a donation of five dollars, or to become new members at the Talk.

For more information about the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, its Museum in Saugatuck and Old School House in Douglas, or its activities planned for 2018, visit [www.MySDHistory.org](http://www.MySDHistory.org).

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Fleet's In

How Retro Boat Rentals' fleet of vintage 1960s runabouts came to Saugatuck will be the topic of SDHC's August 7 "Tuesday Talk"; left foreground adds a glimpse of their new "donut boats"